

### REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 9, 2006. Claims 71, and 74-78 are presented for examination, of which Claim 71 is in independent form. Claims 72 and 73 have been canceled, and their recitations incorporated into Claim 71; this action is taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 74, 77 and 78 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested. The canceled claims will not be further addressed herein.

An Information Disclosure Statement and a corresponding Form PTO-1449 was filed on August 22, 2006. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider those references and return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449, indicating the reference cited thereon was considered.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his indication that Claims 73, 74, 77 and 78 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has amended independent Claim 71, the base claim of Claim 73, to include the recitations of Claim 73. Consequently, independent Claim 71 is seen to be in condition for allowance. Claims 74, 77 and 78 depend from Claim 71 and, therefore, also are seen to be in condition for allowance. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

Claim 71 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,005,677 (Suzuki), and Claims 75 and 76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,230,189 (Sato). Claim 71 is seen to

be in condition for allowance for the reasons stated above. Claims 75 and 76 are each dependent from Claim 71 and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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